

have made significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, religious, scientific, and technological life in the United States.

As Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, let me say that it is altogether fitting and proper that we set aside the month of February to remember and honor the achievements and contributions of American heroes like George Washington Carver, Dr. Charles Drew, Justice Thurgood Marshall, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, Jackie Robinson, Crispus Attucks, Tiger Woods, Benjamin Banneker, and Guion Bluford, Jr.

But Mr. Speaker, nothing wilts so fast as laurels that are rested upon. Time marches on and history unfolds daily. The greatest contributions to the American experience are yet to be made. The challenges facing our country are great but not as great as our will to overcome them. We have an economy to rebuild, an environment to protect, a generation to educate, diseases to cure, and lives to reclaim.

We will succeed. And when the history of this period is written, I have no doubt that it will record the tremendous accomplishments made by Americans, including African Americans.

We will rebuild our economy, preserve the environment and protect the planet, end the HIV/AIDS epidemic and other scourges; provide a world class education to the next generation; and demonstrate to the world not only that it is possible but desirable for people of different races, creeds, and religions to live and work together in peace and harmony.

As members of the greatest legislative body in the world it remains our duty this month and every month of every year to pursue policies that promote social and economic justice.

As an African American woman and legislator who has been benefited from the pioneering work of others, I am committed to doing all that I can to ensure that the doors of opportunity are opened even wider and that all persons in our country have the opportunity to fulfill their potential and realize their dreams.

I urge all Members to joining me in voting to support this resolution.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1105, OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The CTSA program is an important and transformative initiative designed to improve the way biomedical research is conducted across the country, reduce the time it takes for laboratory discoveries to become treatments for patients, engage communities in clinical research efforts, and train the next generation of clinical and translational researchers.

As the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee noted in its subcommittee mark, the program has the potential to create a new paradigm for clinical and translational research.

I am proud that two of the 38 current CTSA sites, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University, are in my district. These two universities have a track record of excellence, and I am pleased that NIH has recognized them as strong research campuses.

Unfortunately, nearly level funding for NIH over the past few years has severely limited the size of the award that can be made to these and the other CTSA-recipient institutions. In addition to hindering the important work being done at the current CTSA sites, the funding challenges have encumbered implementation of the program and threaten to curtail its intended size of 60 sites.

As a firm supporter of NIH, I commend Chairman OBEY on the increased NIH funding in both the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations bill and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and thank him for designating for the CTSA program in the Omnibus bill. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to provide robust funding for this important program in the FY10 appropriations cycle.

LAW ENFORCEMENT LOOKING
OVER THEIR SHOULDER. ARE
THEY GUN SHY?

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, one element lost throughout the fight to free Border Patrol agents Ramos and Compean is the weakened morale it brought throughout the entire ranks of the Border Patrol and its possible detrimental effects on border security. Everyone in the agency knows it could have been them standing guard along the border in Fabens, TX that February day in 2005. Faced with a similar situation, would they have made the same call as Ramos and Compean? The question is an important one because when placed in future similar situations, agents will pause and hesitate and will think long and hard about what course of action to take and if they take a certain course of action, will their government back them up or will they face scrutiny and prosecution? The border is a dangerous place full of dangerous bad guys who don't contemplate these things. Their job is to get their drugs across the border and will fight with everything they have to accomplish that task. Agents are taught to use their training to help them in the face of danger but even the most trained agent is human and most if not all will pause long and hard with thoughts of Ramos & Compean. Officers who hesitate to act not only risk safety to themselves but they risk losing control of our border to the bad guys. The problem is, the other side knows this and their behavior has been growing ever more hostile and ever more assaultive to see the length they can take.

Agents who take aggressive action to hold their border line and protect themselves and their fellow colleagues are constantly looking over their shoulder. The Mexican government has aided in that fear. They constantly are directing pressure from their consulates to local and national offices of the U.S. Attorney's office and FBI to stomp out what they consider

are aggressive Border Patrol actions against their citizens, even if they know those citizens are there to commit crimes against the United States.

Our government needs to be on the right side of this border war. Our government needs to defend our agents who face hostility from a violent enemy. Our government needs to be less concerned with protecting criminals and more concerned with how agents actions will prevent further crime. Enemies throughout time respect only one thing and that is action and defiance. If we allow our agents to show that force and take it to the enemy instead of being gun shy, perhaps we will once again restore order on the border.

TRIBUTE TO BALTIMORE READS

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Baltimore Reads—an organization that has worked tirelessly for the past 20 years to combat illiteracy. Their goal is to help participants gain the necessary skills for self-sufficiency, employment, and life-long learning in order to achieve economic and social empowerment. For 20 years, Baltimore Reads has been striving to meet these goals and, for many participants, has been a means to achieve them.

Since 1992, Baltimore Reads has distributed more than one million books to schools and disadvantaged families. At the Ripken Adult Learning Center, their educational facility in downtown Baltimore, more than 325 students attend classes at proficiency levels ranging from non-readers to GED candidates. With their programs in high demand, they have plans to expand to more locations and add Internet classes. Today, thousands of Baltimoreans have the basic skills necessary to succeed in life because of Baltimore Reads' efforts.

I strongly support Baltimore Reads' vision of a 100 percent literacy rate in Baltimore. I would like to take this opportunity to commend them on their work and wish them another 20 years of success.

HONORING POLK COUNTY SCHOOL
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
MARVIN WILLIAMS

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I want to continue recognizing African Americans from throughout Georgia's 11th Congressional District who have had a major impact on their community.

Today, I rise to honor Marvin Williams of Rockmart, Georgia in Polk County. Marvin has demonstrated a passion for serving others both in his personal and professional lives. For over 30 years, Marvin has been involved in the educational system of Polk County. He began his service as a Special Education